

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:WTDIROLL:JH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

UNCLAS STATE 285644

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: WATCHES -- UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE
COMMISSION (USTIC) STUDY

REF: (A) BERN 5241 (B) STATE 263360

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE INQUIRY,
EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE JACOBI THAT THE USITC DOES NOT,
REPEAT NOT, INTEND TO SEND QUESTIONNAIRES TO SWISS FIRMS,
EITHER DIRECTLY TO SWISS WATCH MANUFACTURERS OR INDIRECTLY
THROUGH THE MISSION OR THE SWISS EMBASSY WASHINGTON, SEEK-
ING INFORMATION ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE SWISS WATCH
INDUSTRY.

2. THE SWISS EMBASSY WASHINGTON REPORT OF THE USITC
INTENTION TO SEND OUT QUESTIONNAIRES MENTIONED IN REFTTEL
(A) RELATES SOLELY TO STEPS THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN
TAKING TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION FROM UNITED STATES FIRMS
AND NOT SWISS OR OTHER FOREIGN FIRMS. SEPARATE
QUESTIONNAIRES OF FOURTEEN AND FORTYPEIGHT PAGES WERE SENT
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OUT (AFTER THE SWISS EMBASSY REPORT) TO UNITED STATES

WATCH IMPORTERS AND UNITED STATES PRODUCER ASSEMBLERS, RESPECTIVELY, WITH A REQUEST THAT THE ADDRESSEES RETURN THE FORMS COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 6. FEDERATION HORLOGES DIRECTOR ROTONAZ APPARENTLY OBTAINED HIS COPIES OF THE TWO QUESTIONNAIRES EITHER FROM A UNITED STATES FIRM ADDRESSEE, THE SWISS EMBASSY WASHINGTON (WHICH IS FOLLOWING THE PROCEEDING CLOSELY) OR FROM A USITC SOURCE. WE UNDERSTAND THE USITC HAS MADE COPIES OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES AVAILABLE TO NON-ADDRESSEE PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PROCEEDING.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE MISSION'S INQUIRY REGARDING THE RELATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN REFTEL (B), THE REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES SENT TO THE UNITED STATES FIRMS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE UNITED STATES WATCH INDUSTRY AND UNITED STATES FOREIGN TRADE AND THE MISSION'S RESPONSE WILL SUPPLY GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE SWISS INDUSTRY. THE WATCH INDUSTRY INCLUDES MULTINATIONAL FIRMS. IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE THAT SOME FIRMS MAY, IF ADEQUATE RECORDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES, CONTACT THEIR FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES OR SUPPLIERS SEEKING DATA WHICH MAY BE NEEDED TO RESPOND TO PARTICULAR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE. KISSINGER

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